



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 673

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5497

House of Representatives, April 24, 2014

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM ON A REGIONAL BASIS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "integrated basic education and skills training programming"
3 means a program based on the Integrated Basic Education and Skills
4 Training Program, I-BEST, that fosters students' literacy and work
5 skills by pairing two instructors in the classroom, one to teach
6 professional and technical content and the other to teach basic skills in
7 reading, mathematics, writing or English language, to enable students
8 to move through school and into living-wage jobs faster by learning
9 basic skills in real-world scenarios offered by the job-training portion
10 of the curriculum and earning the necessary credentials for such jobs.

11 (b) Not later than July 1, 2015, the Labor Department, in
12 collaboration with the Department of Social Services, the state
13 Department of Education and regional workforce development boards
14 established pursuant to section 31-3k of the general statutes, shall,

15 within available appropriations, expand the integrated basic education
16 and skills training programming implemented pursuant to section 17b-
17 112k of the general statutes, on a regional basis to other areas of this
18 state with a high population density of persons who are receiving
19 benefits under the temporary family assistance program and
20 participating in the Jobs First employment services program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section

APP *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Labor Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to geographically expand an existing pilot program using Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST). To the extent the cost of this required expansion exceeds \$900,000, there is a potential cost to DOL which would be equal to the number of additional participants multiplied by the average cost per I-BEST participant of \$5,375.

sHB 5030, the revised FY 15 budget, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, includes approximately \$2.5 million available for the I-BEST program through DOL in FY 15, including \$900,000 to expand the program.

It should be noted that the bill requires the expansion of the I-BEST program within available appropriations. It does not appear that this mandates that the agency perform the activity regardless of available funding, therefore the cost described above is potential.

The bill does not specify whether the regional expansion of I-BEST under the existing pilot program is (1) subject to the 100 participant cap (which is currently in statute), (2) considered a pilot program itself, or (3) required to operate for a specific length of time.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5497*****AN ACT IMPLEMENTING AN I-BEST PROGRAM ON A REGIONAL BASIS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Labor (DOL) to geographically expand, within available appropriations, an existing pilot program using Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) by July 1, 2015.

The bill requires DOL to work in collaboration with regional workforce development boards and the departments of Social Services (DSS) and Education (SDE) to expand this pilot to regions with a high population density of temporary family assistance (TFA) (cash welfare) recipients who participate in Jobs First, the state's welfare-to-work employment services program.

I-BEST fosters literacy and work skills that quickly help students into living wage jobs by:

1. providing real-world job training, so that students may learn the basic skills to earn necessary job credentials and
2. using two classroom instructors with one teaching professional and technical content and the other teaching basic skills in reading, mathematics, writing, or English language.

Current law does not require DSS and DOL to use the I-BEST model for the existing pilot program, but the model aligns with required pilot services (see BACKGROUND).

The bill does not specify whether the regional expansion of I-BEST under the existing pilot program is (1) subject to the 100 participant

cap, (2) considered a pilot program itself, or (3) required to operate for a specific length of time.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

DSS/DOL Pilot Program

By law, the pilot, which must be administered by DSS and DOL, may serve up to 100 TFA recipients who are participating in Jobs First. It must provide participants with adult education and skills training needed to meet employment goals, within available appropriations.

The program must provide the following:

1. intensive case management services to identify participants' (a) employment goals, (b) support service needs, and (c) training, education, and work experience needs;
2. assistance in getting needed support services, training, education, and work experience; or
3. funding to facilitate participation in necessary adult basic education, skills training, postsecondary education, or subsidized employment (CGS § 17b-112k).

EASTCONN, a regional educational service center (RESC) serving the northeastern area of Connecticut, is currently administering the pilot program at its Northeast Learning Center in Danielson.

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 263) to the Appropriations Committee, which favorably reported a substitute that requires DOL to take a lead role and SDE a consultative one in developing the program. It also requires the program to be established within available appropriations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2014)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 44 Nay 0 (04/15/2014)